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Certain curious differences appear to follow the externality or internality of the shell.

An external shell in a mollusk with a hæmal flexure, *e. g.* Atlanta, has its columellar axis *below* the aperture.

An external shell in a mollusk with a neural flexure, *e. g.* Nautilus, has its columellar axis *above* the aperture.

An internal shell in a mollusk with a neural flexure, has its columellar axis *below* the aperture, *e. g.* Spirula, Clausilia, Helix.

In the course of the memoir the author incidentally introduces a number of new, and, as he believes, important facts, with regard to the nervous, circulatory and urinary systems; and describes at length the mechanism of the "tongue" and an organ similar to the "crystalline style" of bivalves, found in the Strombidæ.

The following papers were also read:—

1. "On the Change of Refrangibility of Light." By George G. Stokes, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, Cambridge. Received May 11, 1852.

The author was led into the researches detailed in this paper by considering a very singular phenomenon which Sir John Herschel had discovered in the case of a weak solution of sulphate of quinine, and various other salts of the same alkaloid. This fluid appears colourless and transparent, like water, when viewed by transmitted light, but exhibits in certain aspects a peculiar blue colour. Sir John Herschel found that when the fluid was illuminated by a beam of ordinary daylight, the blue light was produced only throughout a very thin stratum of fluid adjacent to the surface by which the light entered. It was unpolarized. It passed freely through many inches of the fluid. The incident beam, after having passed through the stratum from which the blue light came, was not sensibly enfeebled nor coloured, but yet it had lost the power of producing the usual blue colour when admitted into a solution of sulphate of quinine. A beam of light modified in this mysterious manner was called by Sir John Herschel *epipolized*.

Several years before Sir David Brewster had discovered in the case of an alcoholic solution of the green colouring matter of leaves a very remarkable phenomenon, which he has designated as *internal dispersion*. On admitting into this fluid a beam of sunlight condensed by a lens, he was surprised by finding the path of the rays within the fluid marked by a bright light of a blood-red colour, strangely contrasting with the beautiful green of the fluid itself when seen in moderate thickness. Sir David afterwards observed the same phenomenon in various vegetable solutions and essential oils, and in some solids. He conceived it to be due to coloured particles held in suspension. But there was one circumstance attending the phenomenon which seemed very difficult of explanation on such a supposition, namely, that the whole or a great part of the dispersed beam was unpolarized, whereas a beam reflected from suspended

particles might be expected to be polarized by reflexion. And such was, in fact, the case with those beams which were plainly due to nothing but particles held in suspension. From the general identity of the circumstances attending the two phenomena, Sir David Brewster was led to conclude that epipolic was merely a particular case of internal dispersion, peculiar only in this respect, that the rays capable of dispersion were dispersed with unusual rapidity. But what rays they were which were capable of affecting a solution of sulphate of quinine, why the active rays were so quickly used up, while the dispersed rays which they produced passed freely through the fluid, why the transmitted light when subjected to prismatic analysis showed no deficiencies in those regions to which, with respect to refrangibility, the dispersed rays chiefly belonged, were questions to which the answers appeared to be involved in as much mystery as ever.

After having repeated some of the experiments of Sir David Brewster and Sir John Herschel, the author could not fail to take a most lively interest in the phenomenon. The firm conviction which he felt that two portions of light were not distinguishable as to their nature otherwise than by refrangibility and state of polarization, left him but few hypotheses to choose between, respecting the explanation of the phenomenon. In fact, having regarded it at first as an axiom that dispersed light of any particular refrangibility could only have arisen from light of the same refrangibility contained in the incident beam, he was led by necessity to adopt hypotheses of so artificial a character as to render them wholly improbable. He was thus compelled to adopt the other alternative, namely, to suppose that in the process of internal dispersion the refrangibility of light had been changed. Startling as such a supposition might appear at first sight, the ease with which it accounted for the whole phenomenon was such as already to produce a strong probability of its truth. Accordingly the author determined to put this hypothesis to the test of experiment.

The experiments soon placed the fact of a change of refrangibility beyond all doubt. It would exceed the limits of an abstract like the present to describe the various experiments. It will be sufficient to mention some of the more remarkable results.

A pure spectrum from sunlight having been formed in air in the usual manner, a glass vessel containing a weak solution of sulphate of quinine was placed in it. The rays belonging to the greater part of the visible spectrum passed freely through the fluid, just as if it had been water, being merely reflected here and there from motes. But from a point about half-way between the fixed lines G and H to far beyond the extreme violet the incident rays gave rise to light of a sky-blue colour, which emanated in all directions from the portion of the fluid which was under the influence of the incident rays. The anterior surface of the blue space coincided of course with the inner surface of the vessel in which the fluid was contained. The posterior surface marked the distance to which the incident rays

were able to penetrate before they were absorbed. This distance was at first considerable, greater than the diameter of the vessel, but it decreased with great rapidity as the refrangibility of the incident rays increased, so that from a little beyond the extreme violet to the end the blue space was reduced to an excessively thin stratum adjacent to the surface by which the incident rays entered. It appears therefore that this fluid, which is so transparent with respect to nearly the whole of the visible rays, is of an inky blackness with respect to the invisible rays more refrangible than the extreme violet. The fixed lines belonging to the violet and the invisible region beyond were beautifully represented by dark planes interrupting the blue space. When the eye was properly placed, these planes were of course projected into lines. The author has made a sketch of these fixed lines, which accompanies the paper. They may be readily identified with the fixed lines represented in M. Becquerel's map of the fixed lines of the chemical spectrum. The last line seen in a solution of sulphate of quinine appears to be the line next beyond the last represented in M. Becquerel's map. Under very favourable circumstances two dusky bands were seen still further on. Several circumstances led the author to conclude that in all probability fixed lines might be readily seen corresponding to still more refrangible rays, were it not for the opacity of glass with respect to those rays of very high refrangibility.

It is very easy to prove experimentally that the blue dispersed light corresponding to any particular part of the incident spectrum is not homogeneous light, having a refrangibility equal to that of the incident rays, and rendered visible in consequence of its complete isolation; but that it is in fact heterogeneous light, consisting of rays extending over a wide range of refrangibility, and not passing beyond the limits of refrangibility of the spectrum visible under ordinary circumstances. To show this it is sufficient to isolate a part of the incident spectrum, and view the narrow beam of dispersed light which it produces through a prism held to the eye.

In Sir David Brewster's mode of observation, the beam of light, which was of the same nature as the blue light exhibited by a solution of sulphate of quinine, was necessarily mixed with the beam due merely to reflexion from suspended particles; and in the case of vegetable solutions, a beam of the latter kind almost always exists, to a greater or less degree. But in the method of observation employed by the author, to which he was led by the discovery of the change of refrangibility, the two beams are exhibited quite distinct from one another. The author proposes to call the two kinds of internal dispersion just mentioned *true internal dispersion* and *false internal dispersion*, the latter being nothing more than the scattering of light which is produced by suspended particles, and having, as is now perfectly plain, nothing to do with the remarkable phenomenon of true internal dispersion.

Now that the nature of the latter phenomenon is better known, it is of course possible to employ methods of observation by which it may be detected even when only feebly exhibited. It proves to be

almost universal in vegetable solutions, that is, in solutions made directly from various parts of vegetables. When vegetable products are obtained in a state of isolation, their solutions sometimes exhibit the phenomenon and sometimes do not, or at least exhibit it so feebly that it is impossible to say whether what they do show may not be due to some impurity. Among fluids which exhibit the phenomenon in a high degree, or according to the author's expression are highly *sensitive*, may be mentioned a weak decoction of the bark of the horse-chestnut, an alcoholic extract from the seeds of the *Datura stramonium*, weak tincture of turmeric, and a decoction of madder in a solution of alum. In these cases the general character of the dispersion resembles that exhibited by a solution of sulphate of quinine, but the tint of the dispersed light, and the part of the spectrum at which the dispersion begins, are different in different cases. In the last fluid, for example, the dispersion commences somewhere about the fixed line D, and continues from thence onwards far beyond the extreme violet. The dispersed light is yellow, or yellowish orange.

In the case of other fluids, however, some of them sensitive in a very high degree, the mode in which light is dispersed internally presents some very remarkable peculiarities. One of the most singular examples occurs in the case of an alcoholic solution of the green colouring matter of leaves. This fluid disperses a rich red light. The dispersion commences abruptly about the fixed line B, and continues from thence onwards throughout the visible spectrum and a little beyond. The dispersion is subject to fluctuations intimately connected with the singular absorption bands exhibited by this medium.

In order that a medium should be capable of changing the refrangibility of light incident upon it, it is not necessary that the medium should be a fluid, or a clear solid. Washed papers and other opaque substances produce the same effect, but of course the mode of observation must be changed. The author has observed the change of refrangibility in various ways. It will be sufficient to mention here that which was found most generally useful, which he calls the method of observing by a *linear spectrum*. The method is as follows.

A series of prisms and a lens are arranged in the usual manner for forming a pure spectrum, but the slit by which the light enters, instead of being parallel, is placed in a direction perpendicular to the edges of the prisms. A linear spectrum is thus formed at the focus of the lens, consisting of an infinite succession of images of the slit arranged one after the other in the order of refrangibility, and of course overlapping each other to a certain extent. The substance to be examined is placed in the linear spectrum, and the line of light seen upon it is viewed through a prism held to the eye. In this way it is found that almost all common organic substances, such as wood, cork, paper, calico, bone, ivory, horn, wool, quills, feathers, leather, the skin of the hand, the nails, are sensitive in a greater or less degree. Organic substances which are dark-coloured are fre-

quently found to be insensible, but, on the other hand, scarlet cloth and various other dyed articles are highly sensitive. By means of a linear spectrum the peculiar dispersion of a red light produced by chlorophyll, or some of its modifications, may be observed not only in a solution, but in a green leaf, or on a washed paper, or in a seaweed.

The highly sensitive papers obtained by washing paper with tincture of turmeric, or a solution of sulphate of quinine, or some other highly sensitive medium, display their sensibility in a remarkable manner when they are examined in a linear spectrum. In these cases, however, the paper produces a very striking effect when merely held so as to receive a pure spectrum formed in the usual manner, that is, with a slit parallel to the edges of the prisms. Such a paper may be used as a screen for showing the fixed lines belonging to the invisible rays, though they are not thus shown quite so well as by using a solution. The extraordinary prolongation of the spectrum seen when it is received on turmeric paper, has been already observed by Sir John Herschel, by whom it was attributed to a peculiarity in the reflecting power of that substance. Of course it now appears that the true explanation is very different.

A high degree of sensibility appears to be rather rare among inorganic compounds. Certain specimens of fluor spar, as is already known, give a copious internal dispersion of a deep blue light; but this is plainly due to some foreign ingredient, the nature of which is at present unknown. But there is one class of inorganic compounds which are very remarkable for their sensibility, namely, certain compounds of peroxide of uranium, including the ornamental glass called canary glass, and the natural mineral yellow uranite. In these compounds the dispersed light is found on analysis to consist of bright bands arranged at regular intervals. A very remarkable system of absorption bands is also found among these compounds, which is plainly connected with the system of bright bands seen in the spectrum of the dispersed light. The connection between the absorption and internal dispersion exhibited by these compounds is very singular, and is of a totally different nature from the connection which has been already mentioned as occurring in solutions of the green colouring matter of leaves.

There is one law relating to the change of refrangibility which appears to be quite universal, namely, that the refrangibility of light is *always lowered* by internal dispersion. The incident rays being homogeneous, the dispersed light is found to be more or less composite. Its colour depends simply on its refrangibility, having no relation to the colour of the incident light, or to the circumstance that the incident rays were visible or invisible. The dispersed light appears to emanate in all directions, as if the solid or fluid were self-luminous while under the influence of the incident rays.

The phenomenon of the change of refrangibility of light admits of several important applications. In the first place it enables us to determine instantaneously the transparency or opacity of a solid or fluid with respect to the invisible rays more refrangible than the

violet, and that, not only for these rays as a whole, but for the rays of each refrangibility in particular. For this purpose it is sufficient to form a pure spectrum with sun-light as usual, employing instead of a screen a vessel containing a decoction of the bark of the horse-chestnut, or a slab of canary glass, or some other highly sensitive medium, and then to interpose the medium to be examined, which, if fluid, would have to be contained in a vessel with parallel sides of glass. Glass itself ceases to be transparent about the region corresponding to the end of the author's map, and to carry on these experiments with respect to invisible rays of still higher refrangibility would require the substitution of quartz for glass. The reflecting power of a surface with respect to the invisible rays may be examined in a similar manner.

The effect produced on sensitive media leads to interesting information respecting the nature of various flames. Thus, for example, it appears that the feeble flame of alcohol is extremely brilliant with regard to invisible rays of very high refrangibility. The flame of hydrogen appears to abound in invisible rays of still higher refrangibility.

By means of the phenomena relating to the change of refrangibility, the independent existence of one or more sensitive substances may frequently be observed in a mixture of various compounds. In this way the phenomenon seems likely to prove of value in the separation of organic compounds. The phenomena sometimes also afford curious evidence of chemical combinations; but this subject cannot here be further dwelt upon.

The appearance which the rays from an electric spark produce in a solution of sulphate of quinine, shows that the spark is very rich in invisible rays of excessively high refrangibility, such as would plainly put them far beyond the limits of the maps which have hitherto been made of the fixed lines in the chemical part of the solar spectrum. These rays are stopped by glass, but transmitted through quartz. These circumstances render it probable that the phosphorogenic rays of an electric spark are nothing more than rays of the same nature as those of light, but which are invisible, and not only so, but of excessively high refrangibility. If so, they ought to be stopped by a very small quantity of a substance known to absorb those rays with great energy. Accordingly the author found that while the rays from an electric spark, which excite the phosphorescence of Canton's phosphorus, pass freely through water and quartz, they are stopped on adding to the water an excessively small quantity of sulphate of quinine.

At the end of the paper the author explains what he conceives to be the cause of the change of refrangibility, and enters into some speculations to account for the law according to which the refrangibility of light is always lowered in the process of internal dispersion.

2. "Analytical Researches connected with Steiner's Extension of Malfatti's Problem." By Arthur Cayley, M.A., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Communicated by J. J. Sylvester, Esq., F.R.S. Received April 12, 1852.